

FRANK R. WOLF

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN—SCIENCE-STATE-JUSTICE-
COMMERCE

TRANSPORTATION-TREASURY-HUD-
JUDICIARY-DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CO-CHAIR—CONGRESSIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

September 14, 2006

211 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4810
(202) 225-5138

13073 PAINE CIRCLE ROAD
SUITE 130
HERNDON, VA 20171
(703) 709-5800
(800) 945-9653 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(540) 667-0890
(800) 850-3463 (IN STATE)

www.house.gov/wolf

The Honorable Samuel Bodman
Secretary, Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington DC 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

I write today to express my deep concerns about the request by PJM Interconnection and Allegheny Power for the Department of Energy to designate a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIET) through one of the most protected landscapes in America. I strongly urge the Department of Energy to deny this NIET corridor designation request.

The eastern section of this corridor would cross parts of Frederick, Clarke, Warren, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William counties in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia which I represent. This 40-mile section has been proposed by Dominion Power (the local utility company charged with siting and building the transmission line) as the "Meadow Brook to Loudoun Station" line, and Dominion has publicly stated its intention to file a request to build with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) in spring 2007 as part of a larger 240-mile transmission line linking 502 Junction in Pennsylvania to East Coast markets.

I cannot emphasize enough the historic, environmental, scenic and cultural importance of the lands within this section of the proposed NIET corridor boundaries. The importance of these lands is unparalleled, as evidenced by the vast amount of this area under federal and state protection. Included are local comprehensive plans for rural and conservation areas, federal and state recognized historic districts, historic sites and scenic byways, agricultural and forest districts, state parks, the Appalachian Trail, the Shenandoah River, and more than 80,000 acres under conservation easement -- the highest concentration of privately donated conservation easements in Virginia and arguably in the United States -- pursuant to local, state and federal policies and incentives (see attached map of the designated study area).

The study area also contains lands preserved as Civil War battlefield parks. The blood that sustained a unified nation is in this land. This is the land that George Washington surveyed. This is the land that James Monroe walked. This is the land that Chief Justice John Marshall farmed. Throughout my 26 years in Congress I have worked diligently to preserve these lands for future generations. Millions of federal, state, local and private dollars have gone into protecting the sanctity of the history of this region. An electric transmission corridor with a transmission line of the magnitude proposed would permanently desecrate the integrity of this landscape. We must not destroy this land.

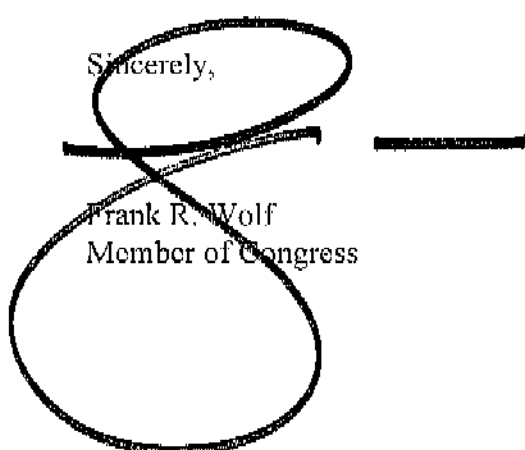
Secretary Samuel Bodman
September 14, 2006
Page 2

Before you proceed with the department's review of the PJM request, I urge that you order an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). I understand an EIS is being prepared prior to designation of a NIET corridor through 11 western states, and a similar environmental study must also be conducted here. I believe an EIS will reveal that the environmental impact of the proposed corridor designation in Virginia would be unprecedented and threaten a longstanding federal, state and local effort to protect the landscape's cultural, historic and scenic qualities.

Furthermore, as you may know, the Commonwealth of Virginia is beginning work on a comprehensive energy plan. The department's action now to designate a NIET corridor in the state would impede that work and preclude the State Corporation Commission from having the necessary time to consider the comprehensive plan before ruling on a new power line siting for this area.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I would appreciate any updates you can provide as you review the NIET corridor designation and proposed transmission line request. Please contact me or Elizabeth Becker of my staff at (202) 225-5136.

Sincerely,



Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:eb
enclosure

Meadow Brook Substation

**Arcola
Substation
(Loaddown)**



- Exploring Scenic Frontiers
 Cemetery, Power Study Area
 Conservation easements
 Publicly Owned Open Space
 Historic Districts Approved and Proposed
 Appalachian Trail
 Principal Civil War Battlefields
 Core Battlegrounds
 Unofficial related Battlefields
 Battlefields Study Areas
 Historic Sites
 Sites on Virginia's Civil War Trail Register
 Natural and Historic Landmarks

Microanalysis of the 100 nm particles was performed by EDX. The 100 nm particles were found to be composed of 30% Fe, 40% Zn, 10% Cu, 10% Pb, and 10% Mn. The 100 nm particles were found to be composed of 30% Fe, 40% Zn, 10% Cu, 10% Pb, and 10% Mn.